

November 2015 Newsletter

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# The University of Texas at Austin



## CENTER FOR ENERGY, LAW & BUSINESS™

### November 2015 Newsletter

#### Letter from the Director



Welcome to the November 2015 issue of the KBH Center's Newsletter.

As the fall semester concludes, I am writing to tell you about our many activities. We convened 14 distinguished lectures, seminars, and student networking events. Our faculty and research fellows published articles, blog posts, and op-eds on energy, law, and business that appeared in publications from the *Environmental LawReporter* to the *Oil & Gas Financial Journal*, *Fortune*, and *The NewRepublic*. We released the Fall 2015 UT Energy Poll. The poll, now in its fifth year, received extensive media coverage across the country. We are offering 40 courses in energy, law, and business, including a number of interdisciplinary courses in law, business, engineering, and geosciences, for this academic year.

As the center continues to grow, so has our team. [Dan Dinges](#) (Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation) and [Matt Ralls](#) (retired, Rowan Companies) have joined our Executive Council. [Becky Klein](#) (Klein Energy LLC) and [Jennifer Smith](#) (Hogan Lovells) now serve on our Advisory Council. We welcomed [Russell Gold](#), the senior energy reporter at the *Wall Street Journal*, as the Inaugural Energy Journalism Fellow for the KBH Center and UT's Energy Institute. Finally, Jessica Miller, one of our wonderful program coordinators, accepted a new position at UT's McDonald Observatory and left the KBH Center earlier this month. We wish her well.

We have a great lineup of events planned for the spring, including the first UT Energy Journalism Workshop (January), a panel on hydraulic fracturing that will take place during UT Energy Week 2016 (February), and the 6th Annual Austin Electricity Conference (April).

I invite you to read about our conferences, research, and curriculum and look forward to seeing you at our spring activities.

Best wishes,  
Melinda Taylor

#### Conferences & Programming

The KBH Center strives to convene experts to promote dialog on current energy topics. This semester, leaders from law firms, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies participated in our distinguished lecture series. The center also hosted seminars for two delegations from Argentina who were interested in learning about the Texas "shale revolution" from energy experts at UT and Texas government agencies

#### Distinguished Lecture Series

- Sept. 10: [Fostering Innovation and Solidifying Texas Leadership in the Energy Sector](#) with RRC Commissioner Christi Craddick.
- Sept. 25: [Subnational Climate Leadership on the Road to Paris](#) with Dr. William Boyd (Colorado Law) and Professor Ann Carlson (UCLA).
- Oct. 8: [Energy Policy and Law of the EU and Switzerland with Regard to Climate Change - Energy Efficiency, Renewables, and the Role of Nuclear Energy](#) with Dr. Sebastian Heselhaus (University of Luzern). Cosponsored with the law school's Institute for Transnational Law.
- Oct. 20: [The Water-Energy Nexus in China](#) with Libin Zhang (JD '97) (Broad & Light, Beijing).
- Oct. 26: [Mechanisms for Promoting Renewable Energy in Brazil](#) with Dr. Amaro Pereira, UT-Fulbright Visiting Professor in Environmental Sciences. Cosponsored with the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies.
- Oct. 27: [Interaction of the EFTA Court with the Courts of the European Union](#) with Dr. Carl Baudenbacher, a judge of the EFTA Court.
- Oct. 30: [An Overview of U.S.-Hemispheric Relations](#) with the U.S. Dept. of State's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy Gonzalo Gallegos. Cosponsored with the Jackson School of Geosciences.



Prof. Melinda Taylor, Deputy Assistant Secretary Gonzalo Gallegos, and Jorge Pinon, the director of the Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy.

## Seminars

- June 3: [Energy, Environment, and Sustainability: A Seminar on the Development of Energy Resources in Argentina and the United States](#). Cosponsored with the Jackson School of Geosciences.
- Aug. 19: [Sharing Lessons from the Shale Revolution in Texas: A Seminar on the Development of Energy Resources in the Province of Neuquen and Texas](#). Cosponsored with the Jackson School of Geosciences.
- Sept. 4: [You're Biased and I'm Not: Separating Energy Policy from Energy Politics](#) with Dr. David B. Spence (UT Austin). Cosponsored with the McCombs School of Business and the UT Energy Institute.



Prof. Melinda Taylor, Jorge Pinon, and UT President Greg Fennes, with members of the Argentine Delegation during their June visit.

## Student Networking Events

- Aug. 15-16: [Summer NAPE 2015](#).
- Sept. 22: Meet and Greet with Local Wind Industry Attorneys and Professionals.
- Sept. 23: [Energy Management Program Industry Night](#).

- Sept. 25: [Practicing Public Interest Environmental Law](#). Cosponsored with the Environmental Law Society.
- Oct. 3: [Energy Management Student Trek to Dallas](#). Hosted by Hunt Oil, Prudential Capital, and Wells Fargo.

## Research

The KBH Center produces objective analyses of business, legal, and policy questions. Research is produced by the center's faculty, and fellows. In October, UT also released the results of its [Energy Poll](#), a public opinion poll that measures and reports biannually (October and April) on consumer opinions and attitudes toward energy consumption, pricing, development, and regulation. This is the fifth year of the poll.

## Articles & White Papers

- ["Punitive, Exemplary, 'Vindictive,' or 'Edifying damages of Whatever Nature'"](#) by Alan Scott Rau, *Liber Amicorum William Laurence Craig*, 2016, Forthcoming
- ["Cost-Benefit Politics in U.S. Energy Policy"](#) by David E. Adelman and David B. Spence, SSRN
- ["Habitat Conservation Plans and Climate Change: Recommendations for Policy"](#) by Melinda E. Taylor and Holly Doremus, *Environmental LawReporter*
- ["Safety First, Environment Last: Improving Regulation of Gas Pipeline Leaks"](#) by Romany Webb, KBH Center

## Blog Posts

Blog posts were written by Romany Webb, Melinda Taylor, and Russell Gold. [Read blog posts here](#).

## Op-Eds

- ["King's X in Mexico's Round One"](#) by Timothy Tyler and James Loftis, (*Oil & Gas Financial Journal*)
- ["Next for the Clean Power Plan: Let the Litigation Games Begin"](#) by David B. Spence (*The Huffington Post*)
- ["Why America's power grid needs natural gas more than ever"](#) by David B. Spence (*Fortune*)
- ["How Exxon Mobil 'Bends' Science to Cast Doubt on Climate Change"](#) by Wendy E. Wagner, (*The New Republic*)

## Media Mentions

- David E. Adelman and David B. Spence, ["Finding Common Ground on the Impacts of Air Pollution Regulation."](#) (*RegBlog*)
- David B. Spence and Melinda Taylor, ["Checks, Balances, and What Happens When Congress Punts."](#) (*Texas Enterprise*)
- David B. Spence, Rob Jones, Ehud Ronn, John C. Butler, Sheridan Titman, Kay Bailey Hutchison, ["Energy Synergy."](#) (*McCombs Today*)
- Tom McGarity, ["A New King of Frackademia? New Environmental Inspectors Offered Free Industry-Funded Classes on Fracking."](#) (*DESMOG*)
- Romany Webb, ["New report urges improved regulations of leaky pipelines."](#) (*Texas Energy Report*)
- Ernest Smith, ["Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is safe, indispensable for higher education in Texas."](#) (*The Daily Texan*)
- David B. Spence, ["Colorado court takes up local laws limiting fracking."](#) (*Marketplace Sustainability*)
- David B. Spence, ["Where bias comes from, and how business leaders check it."](#) (*Houston Chronicle*)
- Melinda Taylor, ["Federal judge removes threatened species listing for prairie grouse."](#) (*myStatesman.com*)
- David B. Spence and David E. Adelman, ["Guess Who Benefits from Regulating Power Plants."](#) (*LegalPlanet*)

## Curriculum

The KBH Center is committed to providing the finest educational opportunities in the U.S. to students who wish to pursue careers in energy. In addition to courses, the center also facilitates networking and mentoring opportunities and organizes field visits for its law and business students.

## Faculty

The KBH Center offers a robust curriculum in energy, law, and business. [Affiliated](#) and [adjunct](#) faculty in the law and [business](#) schools offer a robust curriculum in Energy, International Arbitration, Environmental courses. Examples include Energy Law, Energy Finance, International Commercial Arbitration, Environmental Law, International Petroleum Transactions.

## Students

In addition to offering [law](#) and [business](#) courses in energy, the KBH Center organizes networking events and facilitates mentoring opportunities to help students prepare for future energy careers. In September, Professors Rod Wetsel and Ernest Smith organized a networking event for their students in Texas Wind Law to connect with local wind industry attorneys and professionals. Energy Management students also got the opportunity to network at [Summer NAPE 2015](#) and at [Energy Management Program Industry](#)

**Night.** On September 23, the McCombs Energy Management Program welcomed 12 companies to its annual Industry Night, where more than 30 company representatives and 50 Energy Management students were able to discuss internship and job opportunities.

The center also organizes field visits for its law and business students to promote active learning. On October 3, McCombs Energy Management students, Masters of Science in Finance students, and Masters of Energy and Earth Resources students participated in a [Student Trek to Dallas](#), where they met with representatives from Hunt Oil Company, Prudential Capital, and Wells Fargo. Next spring, students in the center's [LL.M. Concentration in Energy Law, International Arbitration, and Environmental Law](#) (11 students from 7 different countries) will visit the Sweetwater Wind Farm, one of the largest wind farms in the United States.



UT students Hook 'Em during trek to Dallas.

## Student Spotlight

A large number of UT students enjoy careers in the energy sector. For example, recent LL.M. graduates from the law school include Julie Thompson, who is working at WilmerHale in London as an intern in the international arbitration department. Marylee McKnight is now an attorney at the Texas General Land Office in Austin. Dubraska Jaramillo is international associate counsel at Axip Energy Services in Houston. Lalenur Irdem Binli is senior legal adviser at Turkiye Petrolleri A.O. in Ankara, Turkey.

*Correction: Students in the photo from the NAPE 2015 Summit in our May 2015 Newsletter are graduate students in the Earth and Natural Resources Program, not MBA students.*



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